



May 2013 Newsletter



Welcome to *JUMP*, the OPI online assessment newsletter. *JUMP* is published several times during the year to announce important assessment and data events. It provides up-to-date information necessary for the administration of statewide assessments and the accompanying data collections.

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2013-2014 Statewide Assessment Schedule

December 4, 2013 – January 29, 2014	ELP Assessment Window
January 15-17, 2014	State Assessment/Data Conference, Red Lion, Helena
February 17 – March 25, 2014	CRT-Alternate, Grades 3-8 and 10, Reading and Math; Grades 4, 8, and 10, Science The first week of this window is intended for training and the preparation of materials.
March 3 -25, 2014	CRT, Grades 3-8 and 10, Reading and Math; Grades 4, 8, and 10, Science
April 23-May 7, 2014	ACT Plus Writing for Public School Students in Grade 11 Wednesday, April 23, 2014: Initial test day (NOTE: It moves from a Tuesday to a Wednesday in 2014) May 7, 2014: Makeup test day April 23-May 7, 2014: Accommodated testing window

Test Coordinator Information

If your system will have **new System Test Coordinator** for the 2013-14 school year, please immediately contact Ashley Makowski, the OPI assessment administrative assistant at (406)444-3511, amakowski@mt.gov. Please provide the System Test Coordinator's name, email address, phone number, shipping address, and mailing address.

Communication will be ongoing during the summer and will increase in August. Thank you for helping us get the information to your System Test Coordinator.



Spring 2013 CRT and CRT-Alt Results

June 4, 2013 (by 5pm)	CRT and CRT-Alternate Reading, Math, and Science Summary Reports and Interactive Data, System Roster Data File, Individual Student Reports, and CRT and CRT-Alternate Report Interpretation Guides posted on MARS .
August 29, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CRT and CRT-Alternate Report Interpretation Guides, Individual Student Reports, and Cumulative Folder Labels shipped to System Test Coordinators.• Each system and school should have a plan to ensure that student reports will be sent to parents/guardians within two weeks of receipt.

Printed Individual Student Reports

In the August 29, 2013 shipment will be letters to accompany the Individual Student Reports for students who participated in the CRT with a nonstandard accommodation(s).

- Please read the letter and send it **ONLY with reports that indicate a nonstandard accommodation(s)**.
If a report indicates the student took the CRT with a nonstandard accommodation(s), the letter should accompany the report home.
 - **Please do not send the letter with all reports.**
- In some cases, student results were invalidated due to testing irregularities. Each district and school has been notified.
 - The reports for those students with **invalidated results** will indicate the invalidation(s).
 - It is recommended that the students' parents/guardians be contacted prior to their receiving the reports.

Reports for home-schooled students who took the CRT or CRT-Alternate in your school:

- The results for these students are not included in any of your system or school reports on **MARS**.
- In September, you (or the County Superintendent) will receive the printed Individual Student Report and cumulative file label for each home-schooled student who took the test in your school.
- Please contact the County Superintendent to arrange delivery of these items to the parents/guardians.

MARS Information

MARS, the Montana Analysis and Reporting System, is a secure online site accessible by usernames and passwords assigned to schools and districts. The MARS site can be accessed with the following link:
<http://iServices.MeasuredProgress.org>

User Names and Passwords

- System Test Coordinator's and Principal's *MARS* usernames and passwords will remain the same.
- Please remember these are master passwords and are only for the superintendent, building principals, authorized representatives, or system test coordinators. All other educators needing access to *MARS* should be assigned a separate username and password using the Accounts Management tool in *MARS*. A short prerecorded webinar, [MARS Account Management](#), provides directions for assigning passwords.
- If a teacher was assigned to a student in the "Sort by" field in AIM for the 2013 testing, a new 2013 password will automatically be generated and posted in the "Teacher Roster."
 - The Teacher Roster can be accessed on the Principal's homepage in *MARS*.
- If a teacher was not assigned to a student(s) in AIM, the test coordinator/principal will need to make the assignments and create new passwords using the Accounts Management tool in *MARS*.
- If you need password assistance, please contact Ashley Makowski, 406-444-3511 or amakowski@mt.gov

Accessing the *MARS User Manual*

The MARS User Manual contains detailed instructions on using MARS.

- Navigate to: <http://iServices.MeasuredProgress.org>
- Select "**Montana**" or "**Montana ALT**" (either works for both CRT and CRT-ALT) from the dropdown menu and click "Enter."
- Log in with your username and password
- Select Supporting Documents
- For the *User Manual*, select " Forms and Manuals"

MARS Training Webinars

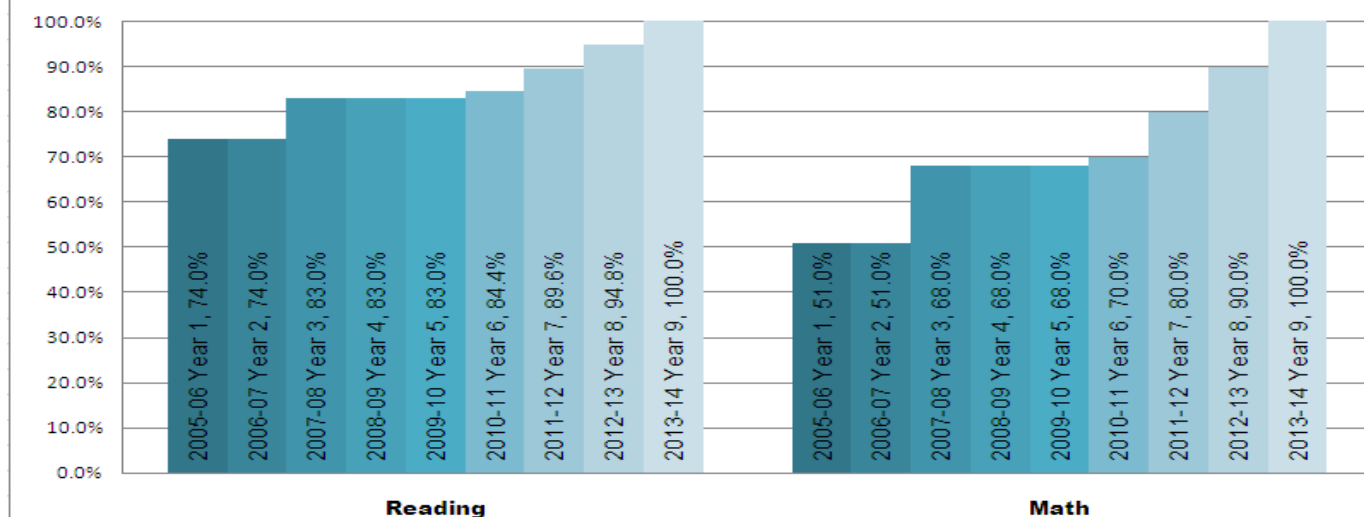
In addition to the MARS user manual, the assessment division has created four MARS webinar training modules. These can be accessed on the CRT&ALT Results Page on the MARS tab:

http://opi.mt.gov/Curriculum/MontCAS/index.html?gpm=1_5&tpm=5_4&tpm=8_2

2013 Adequate Yearly Progress Information

Timeline for Determinations	
June 12-14, 2013	OPI will mail proposed AYP determinations
June 28, 2013	Deadline to appeal determinations
July 24, 2013	Final determinations printed and mailed to schools/districts

Montana Annual Measurable Objective Trajectory Amended as of August 12, 2011



JUMP Smarter

Montana Schools Participate in Smarter Pilot Tests

- In March, April, and May 2013, approximately 75 Montana schools participated in a Smarter **scientific sample pilot test**. Specific schools were selected and invited to participate in order to ensure that a sample of the Montana student population was represented in the pilot test.
- In addition to the scientific sample, a volunteer large scale pilot test was offered by SMARTER; however, the response was so great that the **volunteer pilot test**, available only in the spring of 2013, was extended to be a practice test beginning May 29, 2013. The practice test will remain open throughout the summer and across the 2013-14 school year.
- An informational flyer about the practice test is posted online at the following site:
http://opi.mt.gov/Curriculum/montCAS/MCCS/index.php#gpm1_6

Smarter Montana State Network of Educators and State Leadership Teams have been formed for the development of the Smarter Digital Library of Formative Assessment Practices.

- Over 100 K-12 /higher education Montana educators applied to participate on the State Network of Educators. Seventy-five educators were selected based on criteria including content and grade level expertise.
- A State K-12 /higher education Leadership Team has been formed to provide support and training for the network of educators.
- The work will begin in the summer of 2013 and continue through September 2014.

Smarter 2013 Pilot Range Finding (Benchmarking) Panels are being formed for June 2013. An informational memo and application information memo are located at the following link:

<http://opi.mt.gov/PDF/Assessment/GetReady/13Smarter-Spring-2013-Pilot-Range-Finding-Project.pdf>

The deadline for application is May 23, 2013.



Alternate Assessment

Transitioning to a New Alternate Assessment

The [National Center and State Collaborative \(NCSC\)](#) is a project led by five centers and 28 states (18 core states and 10 Tier II states) to build an alternate assessment based on alternate achievement standards (AA-AAS), developed from the Common Core Standards. The alternate assessment is intended for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

High Expectations

The goal of the NCSC project is to ensure that students with the most significant cognitive disabilities achieve increasingly higher academic outcomes and leave high school ready for post-secondary options.

Montana's Participation

As a Tier II state, Montana has committed to provide professional development to assist teachers in implementing the new assessment system, understanding the alternate achievement standards (AAS), and utilizing the NCSC instructional resources. Montana's special educators from across the state are participating in assessment development activities including math and English language arts item reviews.



English Language Proficiency Assessments

Reminder: ACCESS for ELLs score reports were mailed to System Test Coordinators the week of April 8th.

ACCESS for ELLs Score Report Interpretation 2013

OPI recently presented a live webinar: *ACCESS for ELLs Score Interpretation 2013*. The webinar was created in collaboration with WIDA. It is intended to help utilize and understand the data in the results reports. The webinar is now available in recorded form on the [WIDA website](#). The webinar is password protected. Questions about accessing the webinar can be directed to Yvonne Field, Assessment Specialist 406-444-0748 or yfield@mt.gov or to the System Test Coordinator.

The More, the Merrier. . . Differentiating for ELLs

June 11, Billings and June 13, Missoula

8:30-9:00 AM (Registration) & 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM (Training)

Presenter: Maureen Keithley

Cost: free; Renewal Units: yes!; Audience: teachers working in education settings with ELLs

This workshop is designed as an introductory level training for any teacher working in an educational setting with English language learners (ELLs). Opportunities will be provided to explore academic language differentiation during content instruction and assessment. Participants will use WIDA's English language proficiency (ELP) assessment data and the CAN DO Descriptors. Teachers are encouraged to bring the most recent ELP data (W-APT, MODEL or ACCESS for ELLs) for their ELLs.

There is no registration fee but pre-registration is required because space is limited and lunch must be ordered ahead of time. Contact Joan Franke at jfranke@mt.gov by **May 27** to register (name, school, location of training, and summer e-mail address); please inform Joan if you have food restrictions (vegetarian or gluten-free, etc.).



ACT Plus Writing

Individual student results for all Montana high school students who took the ACT Plus Writing in their high schools on a school day will be mailed to the students' homes and to their high school counselors.

- Students who took the ACT Plus Writing without accommodations or with ACT-Allowed accommodations will receive their score reports **3 – 8 weeks after their answer booklets were received by ACT.**

NOTE: Reports are mailed in batches so receipt of the reports may be staggered.

- Included with the reports is the *Using Your ACT Results* booklet.
- Results for students who took the ACT Plus Writing with the State-Approved accommodations will be mailed to the schools in August. Schools will distribute these to the students.
- Online resources on understanding and using the results to share with students, parents, and school staff:
 - Prerecorded webinar on the ACT Student Score Report:
<http://connect.opi.mt.gov/p90c97m0j65/>
 - Handout to accompany the webinar:
http://opi.mt.gov/PDF/Assessment/ACT/12_10-19_%20ACT-Student-Score-Report-Handouts.pdf
 - ACT site: *Understand Your Scores*, includes a link to a sample report and *Using Your ACT Results* booklet. <http://www.actstudent.org/scores/understand/>
- A detailed schedule of reports at the school, district, and state level will be available for schools and districts by June 2013.

E-Grants - The GEAR UP Grant which provides the ACT Plus Writing for all public school juniors includes funds to assist with costs related to the administration of the test. Districts may begin applying for these funds through the OPI E-Grant system. ACT Test Supervisors received a memo on March 15 with instructions for application. Questions regarding these funds should be directed to Ashley Makowski at (406)-444-3511 or amakowski@mt.gov.



Summer Online Courses

Summer online courses will begin June 10*. Registration will be available on the OPI website in mid-May. Please visit the [MontCAS Presents](#) page for more information:

Course List

The ACT Plus Writing for Teachers – Kris Gardner
 Formative Assessment (FAME) I & II – Stevie Schmitz
 MCCS: Standards for Mathematical Practices – Lisa Scott
 Teaching the Writing Strand of MCCS – Dana Haring
 Standards-Based IEPs—Gail McGregor
 Teaching Limited English Proficient Students—Yvonne Field, Lynn Hinch

*Teaching Limited English Proficient Students will begin June 24

Testing Contractor Information

The CRT and the CRT-Alternate—Measured Progress, Inc.

- Dan Verdick, Montana CRT Program Manager
 - dverdick@measuredprogress.org or 800-431-8901x2220
- Tim Greenlaw, Montana CRT-Alternate Program Manager
 - greenlaw.timothy@measuredprogress.org or 800-431-8901x2309
- Nancy Hebb, Montana CRT Program Assistant
 - hebb.nancyl@measuredprogress.org or 888-792-2741

ACCESS and the W-APT, English Language Proficiency Assessments WIDA Consortium

- Questions about online trainings and the WiDA website
 - help@wida.us or 1-866-276-7735
- Questions about data or testing materials
 - mtinfo@metritech.com or 800-747-4868

ACT Plus Writing

- Testing questions: 800-553-6244x2800
- Accommodations questions: 800-553-6244x1788

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) Pilot

- Technical issues and/or question about the pilot test
 - **AIR help desk toll-free phone number:** 1-866-815-7246
 - **AIR help desk email:** SmarterBalancedHelpDesk@air.org

Quote of the Month

“in designing new assessments, it is important to think of them as inseparable parts of systems that include the conception of standards and curriculum. If those are fused...teachers can avoid the worst versions of “teaching to the test” because the tests are actually sound reflections of what the teachers know is important.”- Robert L. Linn